

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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To: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

From: Dr. Sam W. Swofford, Executive Director

Subject: Certification for Teaching English Learners in English

Assembly Bill 1059 (Statutes 1999, Chapter 711, Ducheney) requires the Commission to provide teachers with an examination route to earn certification to teach English learners in English. In response to AB 1059, the Commission also plans to include a coursework option to earn this certification. The new certification document will be called the California Teacher of English Learners (CTEL) Certificate and will replace the Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD) Certificate.

This coded correspondence addresses the development of the new examination and program standards for the CTEL, including the timeline for implementation of the CTEL Examination and phasing out the CLAD Examinations.

Background

Pursuant to the provisions of AB 1059, all candidates admitted to a Commission-approved SB 2042 Multiple or Single Subject teacher preparation program earn a credential that authorizes instruction for English language development (ELD) and specially designed academic instruction delivered in English (SDAIE).

AB 1059 also requires the Commission to provide an examination for out-of-state trained teachers, as well as experienced California credential holders, to earn certification for teaching English learners in English. Currently, to teach English learners in English, experienced teachers may earn a CLAD Certificate by passing the appropriate CLAD Examinations or by completing specified coursework. SB 2042 and AB 1059 revised the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to teach English learners to reflect changes in policy, research, and theoretical practices for instruction of English learners. For this reason, a new examination and program standards are being developed to reflect the changes. The new CTEL Examination and program will replace the current CLAD Examinations and coursework options.

Development of New Examination and Program Standards

Through a competitive bidding process, in February of 2004 the Commission's Executive Director awarded a contract to National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES) for development and administration of the new CTEL Examination. This contract also provides for the continued administration of the (Bilingual) Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD/BCLAD) Examinations while the CTEL Examination is being developed, and for the development of program standards. NES has been working with a Commission-appointed design team of California educators with experience and expertise in teaching English learners to develop (1) the test structure and test content specifications, and (2) the program standards. To inform this work, NES conducted validity studies of draft examination/program standards to determine how well they reflect current instructional practices. The studies included statewide surveys of teachers of English learners, administrators of schools providing instruction to English learners, and faculty who prepare teachers of English learners. The information gathered in these studies is being used to ensure that the CTEL Examination and programs will assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for effective instruction of English learners. The recommended test structure, test content specifications, and program standards will be presented to the Commission for their consideration this spring.

The test structure and test content specifications that are adopted by the Commission will be used to develop the CTEL Examination. The program standards will be used by institutions of higher education (IHEs), local education agencies (LEAs), and Bilingual Teacher Training Programs (BTTPs), to develop programs of coursework that teachers may take to earn the CTEL Certificate. Information regarding the adopted test structure, test content specifications, and program standards will be provided in future communication.

The CTEL Certificate

The CTEL Certificate will authorize instruction for English language development (ELD) and specially designed academic instruction delivered in English (SDAIE) in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and classes organized primarily for adults. This is the equivalent of the authorization on the CLAD Certificate.

To earn the CTEL Certificate by examination, the candidate must hold an appropriate prerequisite teaching credential and verify passage of all three subtests of the CTEL Examination. Candidates who have not earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution must also verify completion of a second-language requirement using one of the same options available for the CLAD Certificate. Candidates who meet these requirements may apply directly to the Commission for the Certificate. Passing scores for each subtest of the CTEL Examination must be used to obtain a CTEL Certificate within 5 years of the date the score is earned.

To earn the CTEL Certificate by program, the candidate must hold an appropriate prerequisite teaching credential, complete all required coursework, and meet the second-language requirement as described above unless they have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution.

Administration of the California Teacher of English Learners (CTEL) Examination

The CTEL Examination for instruction of English learners is to be administered for the first time in the fall of 2005 (with an anticipated administration date in December) and will be administered twice per year through the spring of 2008. The chart on the following pages shows the approximate schedule for test administrations through spring of 2006. Details regarding specific test dates, registration, and preparation for the CTEL Examination will be provided in a CTEL registration bulletin that will be developed in the coming months.

Following the first administration of the CTEL Examination in the fall of 2005, NES will work with Commission staff and a panel of California educators to conduct a standard setting study to determine recommended passing standards for the examination. These recommended standards will be presented to the Commission for consideration and adoption of passing scores for each subtest. This process will cause a delay in reporting of scores for the first administration of the examination.

Updated information regarding the CTEL Examination will be posted on the CLAD/BCLAD Website at www.clad.nesinc.com until a website specific to the CTEL Examination is developed.

Phasing Out of the CLAD Examinations, Coursework, and Certificates

As indicated above, the Commission plans to phase out the CLAD Certificate. It is important to note that the CLAD Certificate and Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credentials with a CLAD Emphasis will continue to be valid for individuals who hold those documents. The CLAD Certificate and the CLAD Emphasis Credentials authorize the same type of instruction as the CTEL Certificate. Therefore, it will not be necessary for holders of the CLAD Certificate or CLAD Emphasis Credentials to obtain the CTEL Certificate.

CLAD

CLAD Tests 1-3 are the examinations currently required to earn the CLAD Certificate. As indicated above, these tests will be phased out and replaced by the CTEL Examination. The CLAD Tests will be offered three more times: June 25th, 2005; in the fall of 2005; and in the spring of 2006. **Only candidates who have passed one or more of CLAD Tests 1-3 by the June 25th, 2005 test date will be eligible to take CLAD tests at the fall 2005 and spring 2006 test administrations.** This will give those candidates an opportunity to complete requirements for the CLAD Certificate using the examination option. **Candidates who have not passed one or more CLAD Tests by the June 25th, 2005 test date must take the CTEL Examination.** Candidates who do not pass all three of the required CLAD Tests to earn the CLAD Certificate by the last administration date of those tests must take all three sections of the CTEL Examination and earn the CTEL Certificate. Candidates will not be able to combine passing scores from the CLAD Tests with passing scores from subtests of the CTEL Examination to earn certification. The chart on the next page shows the approximate schedule for the remaining administrations of these examinations.

Each passing score on CLAD Tests 1, 2, and 3 must be used to obtain certification within five years of the date it is earned. Because the new CTEL Certificate will have the same authorization as the CLAD Certificate, candidates who apply for certification using passing CLAD Test scores will be issued a CTEL Certificate once the Commission begins to issue those documents.

Information regarding timelines for implementation of new programs for the CTET Certificate will be provided in a future communication.

BCLAD

The current CLAD/BCLAD contract requires administration of BCLAD Tests 4-6 through the spring 2006 test date. This includes two administrations per year for Tests 4 and 5 and Test 6 for Spanish, and one administration per year of Test 6 for all other languages. Candidates will be allowed to combine passing scores on all three subtests of the CTET Examination with passing scores on CLAD/BCLAD Tests 4-6 to earn a BCLAD Certificate. Each passing score on CLAD/BCLAD Tests 1-6 must be used to obtain a BCLAD Certificate within seven years of the date it is earned. Each passing score on CTET Examination must be used to obtain a BCLAD Certificate within five years of the date it is earned.

The Commission is currently exploring options for updating standards and certification for teaching in two languages. Information regarding plans for updating routes to bilingual certification will be provided in future communications.

Test Schedules

The chart below shows the approximate test dates for all of the examinations for instruction of English learners.

Test Dates for CLAD/BCLAD Examinations and the CTET Examination

Test	June 25, 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006
CTET Examination		X	X
CLAD Tests 1, 2, and 3	X	X*	X*
CLAD/BCLAD Tests 4-5 (for all cultures)	X	X	X
CLAD/BCLAD Test 6 for Spanish only	X	X	X
CLAD/BCLAD Test 6 for All Languages	X		X

* Only candidates who have passed one or more of CLAD Tests 1-3 by the June 25th, 2005 test date will be eligible to take CLAD tests on these dates.

Questions

Updated information regarding the CTET Examination and program standards will be provided on the Commission website at www.ctc.ca.gov as it becomes available. Updates regarding the CTET Examination will also be provided on the CLAD/BCLAD website at www.clad.nesinc.com until a website specific to the CTET Examination is developed.

If you have questions regarding this coded correspondence, please e-mail the Commission at exams@ctc.ca.gov and enter "CTET" in the e-mail subject line.